SALISBURY

UNIVERSITY STATE

1998

SOFTBALL

SEAGULLS

SSU at a glance

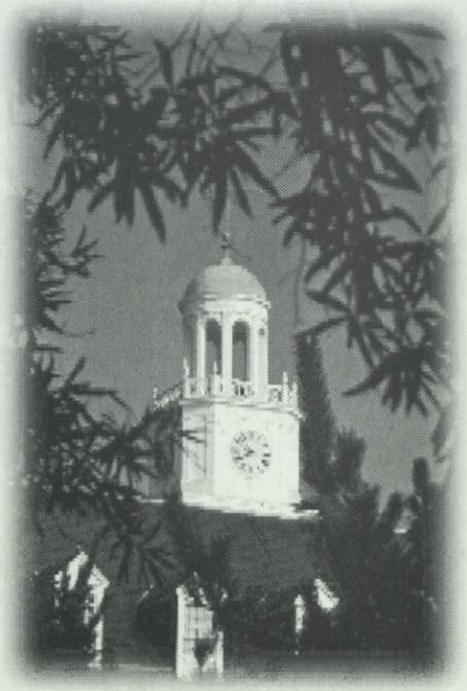
The resources of a University ...
6,000 students from 36 states and 50 foreign countries
29 undergraduate and 7 graduate programs
200 full-time tenure-track faculty, 85 percent with terminal degrees, including National Endowment for the Humanities scholars and Fulbright professors.
NCAA Division III Athletics, 9 men's, 10 women's intercollegiate teams; 22 intramural sports

... with small-school opportunities.
Approachable faculty (17:1 student/faculty ratio)
Honors program with dedicated faculty at the Bellavance Honors Center. Ten residence complexes including traditional, co-ed, suite and apartment styles.

The security of state support ...
1997-98 tuition, room, board and fees: $8,982 per year for Maryland residents; $12,734 per year out-of-state.
A library with over 800,000 volumes, periodicals, microforms and databases including word processing and computer labs. Access to collections throughout the country.

... with the benefits of private funding.
Altogether, SSU awards nearly $1 million in academic scholarships each year. More than $22 million in private endowments supports some of those scholarships and provides for some of the finest educational programs.

In an ideal–and idyllic–location:
Salisbury, MD, is 30 miles west of the Atlantic Ocean and Ocean City, MD, and 20 miles east of the Chesapeake Bay; 2 hours from Baltimore, Washington, D.C. and Wilmington, DE. The campus is 2 1/2 hours from Norfolk, VA, and Philadelphia, PA, and 4 1/2 hours from New York.



Come see us–in person, or in cyberspace. We'd love to see your smiling face, but if you can't get here, check out our Web site.
We're at **http://www.ssu.edu.**

SSU's campus is in an attractive, residential neighborhood of stately homes on sculpted lawns, less than one-half mile from the banks of the Wicomico River. The campus includes 34 buildings on 125 landscaped acres. Students walk from one end of campus to the other in about 5 minutes.

Head Coach Margie Knight

Although she is the newest member of the Sea Gull coaching staff, **Margie Knight** has wasted little time in establishing herself as one of Salisbury State's most successful coaches. Knight joined the SSU staff in December 1996 as the head coach of both the women's softball and volleyball programs after a distinguished coaching and teaching tenure at North Caroline High School in Ridgely, MD.

In just two seasons, Knight has quickly made her presence felt at SSU. In her inaugural softball season in 1997, she led the Gulls to a school-record 33-14 softball record and a spot in the NCAA Tournament's Atlantic Regional. In fact, the Gulls finished one win short of advancing to the Division III World Series for the first time in school history, and finished the year ranked sixth in the final national poll.

Knight's second season with the Sea Gulls was even more impressive. SSU set another new season-record for wins with a 36-10 mark in 1998, while establishing a school-record with a 12-game winning streak. For the first time ever, Salisbury State earned the No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament's Atlantic Regional and also achieved the prize it just missed in 1997, a berth in the College World Series. SSU won its opening game at the eight-team Division III World Series and finished the year fifth in the nation. The Gulls were ranked fourth in the season's final National Fastpitch Coaches Association poll.

Adding to her long list of honors from the high school ranks, Knight was named the Capital Athletic Conference's softball coach of the year in both 1997 and 1998. She has piloted the Gulls through back-to-back unbeaten CAC regular season campaigns and claimed consecutive conference tournament championships.

Knight, a 1979 graduate of the University, returned to her alma mater after building an impressive resume of success at the prep level. She won state high school championships in both softball and volleyball during her 13-year head coaching career at North Caroline. The Bulldogs captured the state softball title in 1988 and 1991, and won the state volleyball championship in 1990.

Knight compiled a 392-77 combined record in the two sports during her tenure, a winning percentage of over 83 percent. Additionally, she has received volleyball coach-of-the-year honors seven times, including the 1996 fall season when she led her squad to a 16-3 record while capturing conference and region titles. She has also been named softball coach of the year four times.

A native of Catonsville, MD, Knight was no stranger to athletic success as a collegiate athlete at Salisbury State. She was a four-year letterwinner in women's basketball and a three-year letterwinner in both softball and volleyball. Additionally, Knight served as a team captain for two years in each of those sports. She was also named MVP of the basketball squad twice and MVP of the softball team as a senior. In recognition of her outstanding collegiate career, she was inducted into the SSU Athletics Hall of Fame in 1995.

In her first volleyball season in 1997, she guided the Sea Gulls to a 20-16 record and led the squad to the CAC title match. In addition to her coaching duties, Knight also serves as an instructor of physical education at Salisbury State.

The Sea Gull Coaching Staff: Pictured (from left) are Assistant Coach Tom Stitcher, Head Coach Margie Knight and Assistant Coach Jen Bowman. Stitcher completed his seventh season as an assistant in 1998, while Bowman, a former team captain and conference player of the year, served her first year as a member of the staff.

Sea Gulls End '98 Season at College World Series

For the second consecutive year, the Salisbury State softball team completed its most successful season ever. In 1997, the Sea Gulls set a school record with a 33-14 campaign and advanced to the finals of the NCAA Tournament's Atlantic Regional. In 1998, the Gulls once again set a new victories record with a 36-10 mark while also capturing the Atlantic Region championship and earning the program's first-ever appearance in the NCAA Division III World Series. SSU placed fifth in the nation at the World Series in Salem, VA. The Gulls were ranked fourth in the season's final National Fastpitch Coaches Association poll.

The expectations were high for the Sea Gulls in 1998, and the team lived up to its billing. Salisbury began the year ranked sixth in the preseason poll, and remained a fixture in the top 10 rankings throughout the year. Among the many records set during a remarkable season, the Gulls established a new mark for consecutive games won with a 12-game winning streak between April 4 and April 21. Salisbury State earned the No. 1 seed for the NCAA Tournament's Atlantic Regional by winning 22 of its final 25 games to end the regular season.

The excitement didn't end in the playoffs. SSU claimed the championship of the rain-shortened Atlantic Regional by rallying for two runs with two outs in its final at-bat to defeat William Paterson 5-4. That victory propelled the Sea Gulls into the World Series for the first time in school history.

Salisbury State won its Series opener by a 5-1 count over Bridgewater State before losses to eventual champion Wisconsin-Stevens Point and defending champion Simpson eliminated the Gulls from the championship. Nevertheless, Salisbury State enjoyed a record-breaking season to remember, from its opening win on March 9 to its final out at the World Series on May 16.

Despite the final loss, the accomplishments of a memorable season were foremost in the mind of Coach Margie Knight. "To finish 36-10 and say we are down about it would be ridiculous," said Knight. "To even say that we were at the Division III World Series is a true honor. We finished fifth in the nation and that's not too shabby."

To the victors go the spoils, and the Sea Gulls enjoyed plenty of those in 1998. Two players, senior DP **Myra Parks** and senior 3B **Jen Dodson**, were named to the 15-player all-America first team. They were joined on the all-Atlantic Region first team by senior OF **Kristin Heath** and junior 2B **Megan Hopper**. Junior SS **Stephanie Bennett** was named to the all-region second team, and also earned a spot on the all-tournament team at the World Series.

SSU's murderer's row lineup virtually rewrote the team recordbook in 1998. The Gulls broke eight offensive team records, in addition to setting numerous individual season and career records. Parks capped her career as Salisbury's all-time home run leader with 29 and season RBI leader with 61. Dodson broke the season (22) and career (47) marks for doubles, while other individual record-setters included Bennett (season hits and runs), Hopper (season and career runs) and pitcher **Kelly Bradford** (wins and innings).

1998 Final Results

Final Overall Record: 36-10 CAC Record: 8-0 Home: 18-3 Away/Neut.: 18-7

Date	Opponent	W/L	Score	Record	Pitcher	Notes
3-9	ST. JOSEPH'S (Me)	W	4-3	1-0	Bradford (1-0)	Hardisty 2-run double in 7th
3-11	CATHOLIC *	W	28-3 (5)	2-0	Bradford (2-0)	SSU 19 hits; Harned grand slam
3-11	CATHOLIC *	W	15-0 (5)	3-0	Widgeon (1-0)	Widgeon no-hitter
3-13	Dominican v	W	10-3	4-0	Bradford (3-0)	Bennett 2-3, 2 RBI; Heath 2-2, double
3-13	Georgian Court v	L	7-8 (8)	4-1	Bradford (3-1)	Hopper 3-4, 2 runs; Bennett 3 RBI
3-14	St. Joseph's v	W	10-1	5-1	Widgeon (2-0)	Kopchinski 4-4, 2 runs; Parks 5 RBI
3-14	Susquehanna v	W	1-0	6-1	Bradford (4-1)	Dodson SF, Parks run scored
3-14	Virginia Wesleyan v	L	3-4	6-2	Bradford (4-2)	Dodson 2-run HR
3-17	Rowan	W	14-7	7-2	Widgeon (3-0)	Parks, 3-5, 3-run HR
3-17	Rowan	L	0-1 (5)	7-3	Willey (0-1)	Bennett double; SSU 3 hits
3-20	MORAVIAN s	L	4-6	7-4	Bradford (4-3)	Harned 2-4, HR
3-20	W. MARYLAND s	W	7-4	8-4	Willey (1-1)	Hardisty 3-run HR; Heath 3-3, HR
3-20	BETHANY s	W	4-1	9-4	Widgeon (4-0)	Dodson 2-3, 3 RBI; Bennett 2 runs
3-21	MUHLENBERG s	W	14-0 (5)	10-4	Bradford (5-3)	Parks 3-run HR; Dodson 3-3, 3 RBI
3-21	ROWAN s	W	10-5 (5)	11-4	Willey (2-1)	SSU 8-run 1st inn; Hopper 3-4, 2 RBI
3-21	W. MARYLAND s	W	9-1	12-4	Bradford (6-3)	Bennett 3-3, 2 HRs, 3 RBI
3-27	Cortland State m	L	2-8	12-5	Bradford (6-4)	Hardisty 2-3, run scored
3-27	Bridgewater State m	W	9-8 (5)	13-5	Willey (3-1)	SSU 8 runs in final inning
3-28	William Paterson m	W	10-9 (6)	14-5	Bradford (7-4)	Dodson 3-3, 3 RBI; SSU 3 runs in 6th
3-28	Ithaca m	W	8-6 (5)	15-5	Bradford (8-4)	SSU 4 runs in 5th; Parks 2 RBI
4-1	Wesley	W	13-5 (5)	16-5	Bradford (9-4)	Harned 3-3, 6 RBI; Dodson 2-3, 4 RBI
4-1	Wesley	W	17-6	17-5	Widgeon (5-0)	Dodson 4 RBI; Bennett 4 RBI
4-4	College of New Jersey	L	0-1	17-6	Bradford (9-5)	Heath 2-3, double
4-4	College of New Jersey	W	8-5 (9)	18-6	Bradford (10-5)	Parks HR, 3 RBI; Harned 2 doubles, 3 RBI
4-7	Virginia Wesleyan	W	1-0	19-6	Bradford (11-5)	Bradford 2-hitshutout; Harned RBI single
4-7	Virginia Wesleyan	W	10-7	20-6	Willey (4-1)	Dodson 3-4, 3 doubles; Hardisty 3 RBI
4-10	Mary Washington *	W	15-2 (5)	21-6	Bradford (12-5)	Hopper 3-4, 4 runs; Parks, Heath HRs
4-10	Mary Washington *	W	7-0	22-6	Widgeon (6-0)	Heath HR; Widgeon 3-hit shutout
4-13	YORK *	W	7-0	23-6	Bradford (13-5)	Hardisty, Dodson 2 RBI each
4-13	YORK *	W	10-0 (5)	24-6	Widgeon (7-0)	Heath 2-3, 3 runs, 3 RBI
4-15	CHRIS. NEWPORT	W	6-3	25-6	Willey (5-1)	Bennett 2 doubles, 4 RBI
4-15	CHRIS. NEWPORT	W	7-3	26-6	Widgeon (8-0)	Hardisty 3-3, HR, 3 RBI
4-19	CHOWAN	W	4-2	27-6	Bradford (14-5)	Heath solo HR
4-19	CHOWAN	W	8-5	28-6	Widgeon (9-0)	Dodson 2 doubles;
4-21	WASHINGTON	W	9-4	29-6	Bradford (15-5)	SSU school-record 12th straight win
4-21	WASHINGTON	L	2-7	29-7	Widgeon (9-1)	Parks 2-run HR
4-22	Gallaudet *	W	11-0 (5)	30-7	Bradford (16-5)	Bradford 3-hitter; Heath HR, 3 RBI
4-22	Gallaudet *	W	12-0 (5)	31-7	Willey (6-1)	Willey 2-hitter; Parks 3-5, 5 RBI
4-25	GALLAUDET	W	12-1 (5)	32-7	Widgeon (10-1)	CAC Tournament – Semifinal
4-25	MARY WASHINGTON	W	12-0 (5)	33-7	Bradford (17-5)	CAC Tournament – Championship
4-29	MESSIAH	W	10-2 (6)	34-7	Bradford (18-5)	SSU breaks single-season wins record
4-29	MESSIAH	L	8-9	34-8	Widgeon (10-2)	Bennett HR, 2 doubles, 3 RBI
5-7	William Paterson N	W	5-4	35-8	Bradford (19-5)	SSU scores 2 in bottom of 7th
5-14	Bridgewater State C	W	5-1	36-8	Bradford (20-5)	**College World Series – Salem, VA**
5-15	Wisc-Stevens Pt. C	L	1-10(6)	36-9	Bradford (20-6)	**College World Series – Salem, VA**
5-16	Simpson C	L	0-5	36-10	Bradford (20-7)	**College World Series – Salem, VA**

Home games in CAPS * CAC game

v Virginia Wesleyan Tournament s SSU Sea Gull Invitational - SSU 1st place m Montclair-Kean Classic

N NCAA Atlantic Regional C College World Series

1998 Sea Gull Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Year	Hometown	High School
2	Megan Hopper	2B	Jr	Millsboro, DE	Sussex Central
3	Jade Widgeon	P	So	Willis Wharf, VA	Northampton
4	Jackie Rolfes	2B	Fr	Shady Side, MD	Southern
5	Erin Willey	P	Fr	Denton, MD	North Caroline
6	Amanda Kopchinski	OF	Sr	Severn, MD	Old Mill
7	April Harned	C/OF	Fr	Denton, MD	North Caroline
8	Kerri Smith	C	Jr	Crownsville, MD	Old Mill
9	Vicki Hardisty	C	So	Beltsville, MD	High Point
10	Julie Clark	SS	So	Fallston, MD	Fallston
11	Becky Fox	2B	So	Bel Air, MD	Bel Air
12	Lori Carrion	C/1B	Jr	Earleville, MD	Bohemia Manor
13	Robin Ferdetta	2B	Fr	Ewing, NJ	Ewing
14	Kristin Heath	OF	Sr	Salisbury, MD	Parkside
15	Stephanie Bennett	SS	Jr	Millersville, MD	Old Mill
16	Shannon Monroney	3B	Fr	Endicott, NY	Union Endicott
17	Shannon Duffy	OF	Fr	North Plainfield, NJ	North Plainfield
18	Jen Dodson	3B	Sr	Hebron, MD	Mardela
19	Kelly Bradford	P	Jr	Upper Marlboro, MD	Riverdale Baptist
20	Myra Parks	1B	Sr	Bethel Park, PA	Bethel Park

Sea Gull Honor Roll

MVPs

1980 Robin Tyler
1981 Sissy Natoli
1982 Carolyn Huston/Pam Gonce
1983 Cindy Zile
1984 Donna Headlee
1985 Terri Timmons
1986 Dawn Taylor
1987 Jodi Yingling
1988 Tina DeJaco/Jodi Yingling
1989 Terri Sharpless
1990 Kristy Keil
1991 Saundra Miller/Sharrey Hammond
1992 Dianne Racine
1993 Sandy Lawless
1994 Dianne Racine
1995 Lauren Spears
1996 Kara Burman
1997 Myra Parks
1998 Jen Dodson

Most Improved

1987 Laura Fisher
1988 Diane Bickford
1989 Kristy Keil
1990 Saundra Miller
1991 Yvette Hess
1992 Heather McIntosh
1993 Laura Heath
1994 Michelle Brosius
1995 Kristin Heath
1996 Lori Carrion
1997 Becky Fox/Julie Clark
1998 Lori Carrion

Coach's Award

1987 Kristy Keil
1988 Debbie Scott
1989 Karen Sipple
1990 Jane Cleveland
1991 Saundra Miller
1992 Sandy Lawless
1993 Sonja Akers
1994 Melissa Manz
1995 Heather McIntosh
1996 Jen Dodson
1997 Kerri Smith
1998 Megan Hopper

Morrison Award

1989 Terri Sharpless/Karen Sipple
1990 Kristy Keil
1991 Amy Geppi
1992 Monica Diggs
1993 (not awarded)
1994 Heather McIntosh
1995 Deana Shaner
1996 Myra Parks

Dedication Award

1997 Jen Bowman/Kara Burman/ Tracy Layfield/Becky Keller
1998 Jen Dodson/Kristin Heath/ Amanda Kopchinski/Myra Parks

The Salisbury State softball program had its first two All-Americans in 1998. Pictured at the All-American banquet, in Salem, VA, are (left to right) Assistant Coach Tom Stitcher, senior DP Myra Parks, senior 3B Jen Dodson and Assistant Coach Jen Bowman. Parks and Dodson were both named to the 15-player first team.

Gulls Dominate All-CAC Softball Team

Dodson, Harned, Knight Earn Individual Honors

Salisbury State University, regular season and tournament champion in the Capital Athletic Conference for the second consecutive year, dominated the all-conference team by placing 10 players on the first and second all-CAC team. In addition, the Sea Gulls swept the conference's three individual awards for the second straight year, with senior 3B **Jen Dodson** named player of the year, freshman **April Harned** named rookie of the year and **Margie Knight** named coach of the year. A closer look at the honored players:

DP **Myra Parks**...Earned first team honors for the third straight year...Set SSU career home run record this season with 29 home runs and also broke the SSU single-season RBI record with 61 RBI...Hit .399 with a conference-leading 10 HRs.

2B **Megan Hopper**...Returned to the first team for the third straight season...Had a .398 batting average and .434 on-base percentage...Also led the team with 17 steals.

3B **Jen Dodson**...Enjoyed a spectacular season offensively, with a conference-leading .437 batting average, 3 home runs and 42 RBI...Also shattered the SSU single-season record for doubles, with 22, and broke the record for career doubles, with 47...Returned to the conference first team for third time, while replacing Parks as this year's CAC Player of the Year.

SS **Stephanie Bennett**...Joined the Gulls as a junior transfer this season and shared the team lead with 68 hits...Also led the conference in runs, with 58...Had a .428 batting average with 15 doubles, 3 HRs and 37 RBI.

P **Kelly Bradford**...The sophomore led the conference in wins with a 20-7 record and 2.33 ERA...Earned first team honors after being named to the conference's second team last year in addition to claiming the 1997 rookie of the year award...Broke SSU's single-season record for most pitching wins.

C **Vicki Hardisty**...A two-year starter, the sophomore earned all conference honors for the first time...Had a .344 batting average with 9 doubles, 2 HRs and 32 RBI.

RF **Kristin Heath**...The senior moved to the first team this season after earning second team honors last year...Her third consecutive season with all-CAC accolades...Second on the team with 7 HRs, also had 32 RBI and a .382 batting average...Her 13 doubles also ranked third on the team.

LF **April Harned**...Wins rookie-of-the-year honors while also being named to the all-conference second team...Had a .299 batting average with 11 doubles, 6 HRs and 37 RBI.

CF **Amanda Kopchinski** ...Earned second team honors for the second straight year...Had a .410 batting average with 35 runs and 18 RBI...Her nine assists was highest among the outfielders.

1B **Lori Carrion**...The junior earned second team status in her first season as a lineup regular...Had a .311 batting average with 19 runs scored and 21 RBI.

1998 All-Atlantic Region

First Team	Second Team
3B Jen Dodson	SS Stephanie Bennett
DP Myra Parks	
OF Kristin Heath	
2B Megan Hopper	

Sea Gull Recordbook

Career Leaders

Hits

1. Becky Keller	183	(1994-97)
2. Myra Parks	174	(1996-98)
3. Jen Dodson	170	(1995-98)
4. Kristin Heath	164	(1995-98)
5. Megan Hopper	158	(1996-98)
6. Jen Bowman	151	(1993-97)
7. Kara Burman	135	(1994-97)
8. A. Kopchinski	113	(1996-98)
9. Dianne Racine	109	(1991-94)

Home Runs

1. Myra Parks	29	(1996-98)
2. Becky Keller	22	(1994-97)
3. Kristin Heath	15	(1995-98)
4. Jen Dodson	9	(1995-98)
5. Jen Bowman	8	(1993-95, 97)
6. April Harned	6	(1998)
7. Tracy Layfield	5	(1994-97)
Laura Heath	5	(1992-95)

RBI

1. Becky Keller	148	(1994-97)
2. Myra Parks	139	(1996-98)
3. Jen Dodson	119	(1995-98)
4. Jen Bowman	108	(1993-97)
5. Kristin Heath	102	(1995-98)
6. Kara Burman	71	(1994-97)
7. Debe Clarke	52	(1988-90)
8. Megan Hopper	50	(1996-98)

Team Records
(single season)

Victories	36	1998
Most Consecutive Wins	12	1998
Games Played	47	1997
Runs Scored	367	1998
Hits	501	1998
Doubles	114	1998
Triples	20	1998
Home Runs	31	1998
Batting Average *	.387	1978
Sacrifices	63	1998
Walks	123	1985
Fewest Strikeouts *	28	1978
Most Strikeouts by SSU pitchers	135	1985
Fewest Walks by SSU pitchers *	43	1990
Lowest ERA *	1.40	1985

* minimum 12 games played

Sea Gull Quick Facts

Location	Salisbury, MD
Founded	1925
Enrollment	6,000
President	Dr. William C. Merwin
Colors	Maroon & Gold
Nickname	Sea Gulls
Affiliation	NCAA Division III
Conference	Capital Athletic (CAC)
Home Field	Sea Gull Field
Surface	All-dirt (infield), Grass (outfield)
Director of Athletics	Dr. Michael Vienna
Athletics Department Phone	410-548-3503
Athletics Department Fax	410-546-2639
Sports Information Director	Paul Ohanian
Sports Information Phone	410-543-6016
Sports Information Fax	410-543-6068
Head Coach	Margie Knight, 2 years
Alma Mater	Salisbury State ('79)
Record at School	69-24
Career Record	same
Coach's Phone	410-543-6352
Assistant Coaches	Tom Stitcher, Jen Bowman
1998 Record	36-10 (10-0 in CAC)
Final National Ranking	Fourth (NFCA poll)

SSU's Athletics Philosophy

Salisbury State University, a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA) Division III, offers 19 intercollegiate sports for men and women. In addition to NCAA membership, SSU competes as a member of the Capital Athletic Conference (CAC) and the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC).

As a member of the NCAA's Division III, Salisbury State places the highest priority on the overall quality of the educational experience. In doing so, it seeks to strengthen the integration of objectives and programs in athletics with academic and developmental objectives, and to assure the integration of athletes with other students.

SSU places special importance on the impact of athletics on the participants, with emphasis on the internal constituency (students, alumni and special friends) rather than on the general public and its entertainment needs.

The SSU athletics program is further characterized by the following principles:

- Participants receive the same treatment as other students. They have no unique privileges in admission, academic advising, course selection, grading, living accommodations or financial aid. Similarly, athletes are not denied rights and opportunities that would be available to them as non-athletes.
- Sports for men and women are given equal emphasis and the desired quality of competition is similar in all sports.
- Students are supported in their efforts to reach high levels of performance by providing them with adequate facilities, competent coaching and appropriate competitive opportunities with students from similar institutions.
- SSU strives to make the student-athlete's participation in intercollegiate athletics an enriching experience, and holds genuine concern for each participant's welfare. The intercollegiate program's foremost goal at all times is to supplement and enrich the first priority of the University, which is academic accomplishment.

NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION • FOUNDED 1906 • ®

NCAA

Salisbury
STATE UNIVERSITY

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Salisbury, MD 21801-6860